

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 63 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein.

Please add the following claims:

reads while --64. A method of inhibiting BLyS activity in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a composition comprising a transmembrane activator and calcium-modulator and cyclophilin ligand-interactor (TACI) polypeptide, wherein the TACI polypeptide *?* (comprises) an extracellular domain of TACI, wherein TACI has an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:6, and wherein the TACI polypeptide binds BLyS.)

65. The method of claim 64, wherein the TACI polypeptide consists of an extracellular domain of TACI.

66. The method of claim 64, wherein the TACI extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 25 to 104 of SEQ ID NO:6.

67. The method of claim 66, wherein the TACI extracellular domain consists of amino acid residues 25 to 104 of SEQ ID NO:6.

A2 68. The method of claim 66, wherein the TACI extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:6.

69. The method of claim 68, wherein the TACI extracellular domain consists of amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:6.

70. The method of claim 66, wherein the TACI extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 1 to 166 of SEQ ID NO:6.

71. The method of claim 70, wherein the TACI extracellular domain consists of amino acid residues 1 to 166 of SEQ ID NO:6.

72. The method of claim 64, wherein the BLyS activity is antibody production, and wherein administration of the composition inhibits antibody production.

(73.) A method of inhibiting BLYS activity in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a composition comprising a fusion protein consisting of a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion and second portion are joined by a peptide bond, wherein the first portion comprises an extracellular domain of the transmembrane activator and calcium-modulator and cyclophilin ligand-interactor (TACI), wherein TACI has an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:6, and wherein the fusion protein binds BLYS. }

(74.) The method of claim 73, wherein the first portion consists of an extracellular domain of TACI.

(75.) The method of claim 73, wherein the TACI extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 25 to 104 of SEQ ID NO:6.

(76.) The method of claim 75, wherein the TACI extracellular domain consists of amino acid residues 25 to 104 of SEQ ID NO:6.

(77.) The method of claim 75, wherein the TACI extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:6.

(78.) The method of claim 77, wherein the TACI extracellular domain consists of amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:6.

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(79.) The method of claim 75, wherein the TACI extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 1 to 166 of SEQ ID NO:6.

(80.) The method of claim 79, wherein the TACI extracellular domain consists of amino acid residues 1 to 166 of SEQ ID NO:6.

(81.) The method of claim 73, wherein the BLYS activity is antibody production, and wherein administration of the composition inhibits antibody production.

(82.) The method of claim 73, wherein the composition comprises a multimer of fusion proteins.

(83.) The method of claim 82, wherein the composition comprises a dimer of fusion proteins.

(84.) The method of claim 73, wherein the second portion of the fusion protein is an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region.

(85.) The method of claim 84, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region.

(86.) The method of claim 85, wherein the human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region of IgG1.

(87.) The method of claim 85, wherein the TACI extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 25 to 104 of SEQ ID NO:6.

(88.) The method of claim 87, wherein the TACI extracellular domain consists of amino acid residues 25 to 104 of SEQ ID NO:6.

(89.) The method of claim 87, wherein the TACI extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:6.

(90.) The method of claim 89, wherein the TACI extracellular domain consists of amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:6.

A² W | (91.) The method of claim 87, wherein the TACI extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 1 to 166 of SEQ ID NO:6.

(92.) The method of claim 91, wherein the TACI extracellular domain consists of amino acid residues 1 to 166 of SEQ ID NO:6.

(93.) The method of claim 87, wherein the BLYS activity is antibody production, and administration of the composition inhibits antibody production.

(94.) The method of claim 87, wherein the composition comprises a multimer of fusion proteins.

(95.) The method of claim 94, wherein the composition comprises a dimer of fusion proteins.

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(96.)

The method of claim 87, wherein the human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region of IgG1.--

